

Lamar Town Council Meeting Minutes January 13, 2025

Mayor James Howell called the Lamar Town Council Meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Councilwoman Inez B. Lee gave the invocation.

Mayor Howell took roll call: Mayor Howell, Councilwoman Inez B. Lee, Councilman Tyler Cook, and Councilwoman Mary Ann Mack were present. Councilwoman Angele White-Bradley participated via Zoom.

Others in attendance: Tim Dargan. Doug Poston participated via Zoom.

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to accept the agenda for the January 13, 2025, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Lee made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 9, 2024, Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no comments from citizens during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Doug Poston of Douglas R. Poston, Jr. CPA gave the financial Report:

General Fund (December 2024): Receipts - \$18,978.92, Disbursements - \$55,070.47, Decrease in cash - \$36,091.55, Ending cash balance - \$530,11.60 (\$106,796.21 of these funds are from the American Rescue Funds).

Utility Fund (December 2024): Receipts - \$41,995.67, Disbursements - \$74,584.59, Decrease in cash- \$32,588.92, Ending cash balance - \$852,923.97 (- \$4,309.45 available for operations; \$57,233.42 for restricted grant funds).

Mr. Poston informed the council that he paid the DCWSA invoices for December 2024 and January 2025. He also paid two monthly invoices for Xylem. The Xylem payment came from the ARF Funds.

A status report on The Railroad Avenue Lift Station Project was submitted by Teresa Jacobs of the Pee Dee COG (Council of Government). Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the report as information. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A status report on The Railroad Avenue Lift Station Project was submitted by Preston Watson of Davis & Floyd). Councilman Cook also read a resolution submitted by Davis & Floyd authorizing Mayor Howell to enter a contract with Site Concepts in the amount of \$914,000.00 to complete the Railroad Avenue Lift Station Project. Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the report as information and adopt the resolution. Councilwoman Mack seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dargan gave the Business License Report on behalf of Councilwoman Bradley. As of January 13, 2025: Business License Letters Mailed Out:**121**, Licenses Renewed:**107**, New Licenses:**91**, Pending Licenses:**14**

Councilwoman Lee Beautification Commission Report:
Beautification Commission to start meeting again once the weather warms up.

Water Line Issues:

- Ongoing issue with water lines at Waren & Rogers, Darlington & Reynolds, and Main & Reynolds. Mayor Howell said all these leaks have been fixed.
- The sewer issue on Mims Street has been resolved.
- For water breaks, please call Councilwoman Inez B. Lee at (843) 230-7137.

Councilwoman Lee gave the Water & Sewer Report:
Water Loss Report for the Month of December 2024:

Gallons Purchased:4,053,000 Gallons Billed:1,978,399 Gallons Loss:2,074,601 [\$13,485.47 paid to DCWSA]

Councilwoman Lee reported that DES (formerly DHEC) visited the Town of Lamar to conduct the Annual Sanitary Water (drinking water) Survey Inspection. This inspection included checking reports from fire hydrants, valves, water leaks, and the town's elevated water tanks. The results of the inspection were "Satisfactory." There were no unsatisfactory findings; however, two areas need improvement (give dates of fire hydrant tests and provide a list of operators with their certification).

Councilwoman Mack had no new information to report for Streets and Sanitation.

Councilman Cook gave the Lamar Police Department Report:

- The Town of Lamar is hiring a new Chief of Police. Former Sherrif, James Hudson, submitted qualifications, duties, etc. for the Chief of Police at the request of Mayor Howell and Mr. Dargan. The Sheriff's Office and the Lamar Police Department's Officer Calip Floyd are covering the Town in the interim. Councilman Cook is scheduling officers until a new Chief of Police is found.
 - Interested parties should complete an application at <https://lamarsc.org/town-of-lamar-jobs/>.
 - Compensation commensurate with experience.
- South Carolina Department of Commerce Grant Update
- The next quarterly report is due on January 31, 2025; a detailed update will be available at the February 10, 2025, Town Council Meeting.
- Reminded citizens to watch their speed when driving around town.
- Please contact the Animal Shelter if you need a trap in your area at 843-398-4011.
- Encourage residents to call the Anonymous Tip Line at 843-326-1449 (non-emergency calls).

Mayor Howell said that he had one candidate for Chief of Police. He also said that the Town is looking at possibly hiring one part-time officer.

Mayor Howell stated the Town has purchased an excavator for the Public Works Department .

Mayor Howell asked the council for approval to purchase a storage building to store Town of Lamar records and documents. This building would need racks for maximum storage and an ac unit for climate control. Mr. Dargan confirmed that there is a lack of storage space in the town hall and that this building is very much needed. Councilwoman Mack made a motion to purchase a storage building for \$10,000 or less. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dargan submitted a Town of Lamar Municipal Calendar to the council for approval. The calendar included dates for Town Council Meetings, budget meetings, audit schedule, holiday closures, & alternate trash collection days. Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the calendar. Councilwoman Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dargan gave an update on upcoming events: Food Box Giveaway (January 9th) and MLK Day Prayer Breakfast (January 20th).

Councilwoman Mack made a motion to adjourn the Lamar Town Council Meeting. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Howell adjourned the meeting at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy L Dargan